# Kern Autism Regional Taskforce

Early Identification & Intervention Workgroup

June 17, 2010

## Workgroup Members

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#### Recommendations

- Licensing requirements for Primary Care Physicians.
- Common assessment tools for diagnosis.
- Local Resources have a common & consistent 'gatekeeper' for parents.
- More specific education for students in our Institutes of Higher Education.

## Licensing Requirements

- What is the outcome: Licensing requirements for Primary Care Physicians to better understand and assess children for ASD. The cost to implement is based upon the Medical Boards development of training.
- How achieved: Through legislation effecting requirements of physicians.
- Who will implement: Medical board, collaboration with universities, graduate students, Autism Society of America, & Autism Speaks.
- Funding: Could come from the Medical Board. They could allow Grad students to create training and the Doctors pay for it as part of licensing fees.
  - Cost savings: Short term costs=Long term gain for children and families, community and service agencies. The training would impact the Autism population and their families. HMO's, schools and counties would also benefit.
  - The outcome would result in a better practice policy for physicians that is supported by the legislative team.

#### **Assessment Tools**

- What is the outcome: Common assessment tools for diagnosis.
- How achieved: Would depend on the changes to the Education Code.
- Who will implement: Any professional involved in ASD.
- Funding: Could come from individual dept. to purchase and train using testing tools. Those currently receiving state funding would be required to implement to continue to receive funds.
- Cost Savings: eliminate multiple paper trails, eliminate time therefore providing early intervention, short term expense=long term gain.
- Impact all those involved the process.
- Outcome would provide a cleaner, faster streamlined process for everyone.

#### Local Resources & Public Listing

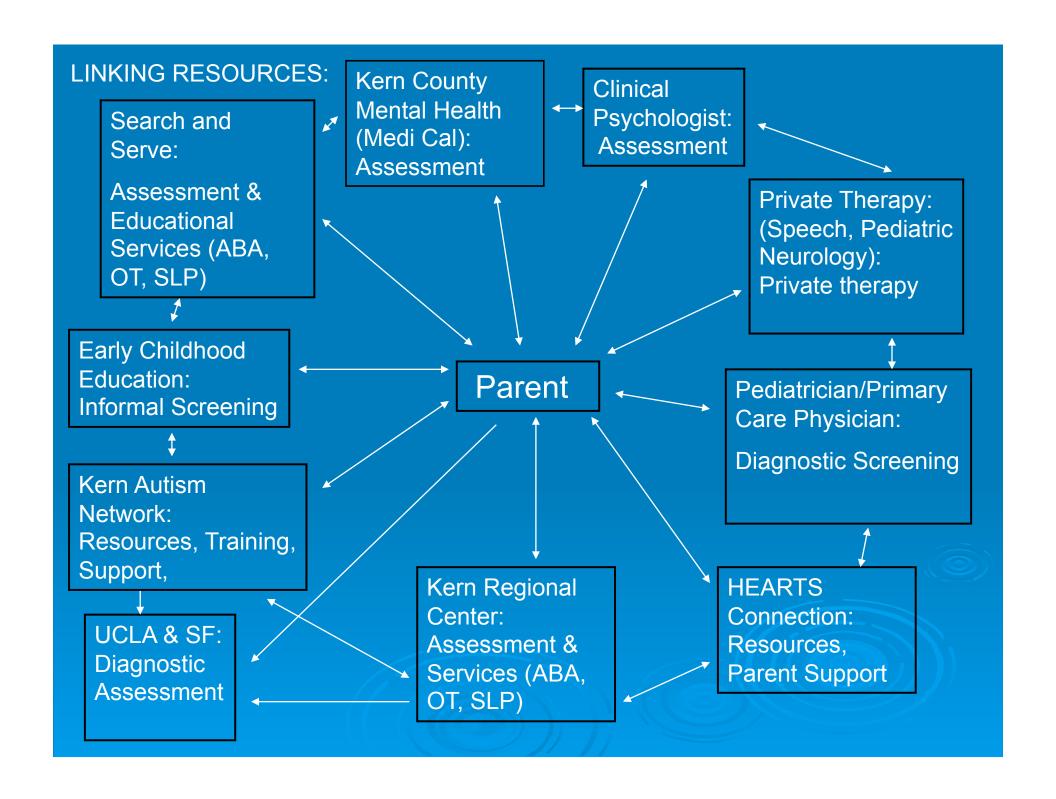
What is the action: Local Resources have a common & consistent 'gatekeeper' for parents.

How Achieved: Local advocacy and monitoring

Who will implement: Local agencies partnering with Corporate Sponsors, High Schools, Community Colleges and grants.

Funded via local high schools involving students as part of work study class. Cost would depend on website maintenance.

The information would be free and available to all. Impacts those involved in the Autism community and would provide streamlined information.



### Institutes of Higher Education

- What is the outcome: More specific education regarding ASD for students in our Institutes of Higher Education.
- How achieved: Regulation by institutes issuing accreditation to universities, developing specific requirements students have to meet related to ASD.
- Who will implement: IHEs and institutes which issue accreditation to universities.
- Funding would be determined by IHEs and passed on to university students.
- Cost involves changes to undergraduate & graduate requirements in various majors/concentrations: psychology, psychiatry, education, etc. that involve young children.
- Savings to entities working with young children as they develop improved strategies to assist students with ASD which in turn impacts county/state resources.
- Outcome: Improved understanding & services which promote improved results as students become adults.